

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



**Government
of South Australia**

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2011-12

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ABN: 36 702 093 234
ISSN: 1832-9438

September 2012

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Paul Caica
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and Part 2 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Dr Ian Carmichael
Presiding Member
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) contributes to the achievement of the following South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) Targets:

SASP Target	Committee role
<p>39 (previous target T1.2) Competitive business climate: maintain Adelaide's rating as the least costly place to set up and do business in Australia and continue to improve our position internationally.</p>	<p>By ensuring industry participation in animal welfare standards and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged in the broader market.</p>
<p>32 (previous target T1.7) Performance in the public sector - customer and client satisfaction with government services: increase in the satisfaction of South Australians with government services by 10% by 2014, maintaining or exceeding that level of satisfaction thereafter.</p>	<p>By establishing and maintaining linkages and networks with industry and Non-Government Organisations to ensure mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions.</p>
<p>95. (previous target T4.6) Industry collaboration, research and development commercialisation:</p> <p>Total gross cumulative value of industry and other funding for research earned by universities and state-based publicly funded research institutions to reach \$650 million by 2020.</p>	<p>By consideration of the standards and requirements for animal based research such that red-tape is minimised but animal welfare is ensured.</p>

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

The current three year term of membership started on 15 September 2011 and the Committee met five times during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the Committee provided recommendations to the Minister regarding the use of pronged collars for dogs, gave advice on a draft revision the South Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Management of Animals in the Pet Trade and reviewed the proposed amendments to the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2000*.

The Committee has developed a series of Position Statements regarding specific animal welfare issues. The statements are reviewed on a regular basis to determine relevancy and are amended as appropriate. New statements are added as they are considered. In 2011-12, the Committee reviewed its Position Statements related to animals used in displays and entertainment, pet shops, street markets and created new statements on dangerous dogs and restricted dog breeds.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

OBJECT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 1985

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is established under section 6 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee provides advice to the Minister on issues relating to the Act and contemporary animal welfare issues.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 12 of the Act defines the functions of the Committee as:

- (a) to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this Act; and
- (b) to consider, and report to the Minister on, legislative proposals affecting animal welfare; and
- (c) to examine proposed codes of practice relating to animals and report to the Minister on their likely effect upon animal welfare; and
- (ca) to develop, or assist in developing, codes of practice for animal welfare and to make recommendations to the Minister as to their adoption under the regulations; and
- (d) to investigate and report to the Minister on any matters referred by the Minister to the Committee for advice.

MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with section 6 of the Act, the Committee consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, of whom:

- (a) 1 is to be nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Livestock Act 1997*;
- (b) 2 will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers Federation Incorporated;
- (c) 1 will be nominated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals SA (Inc);
- (d) 2 will be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations;
- (e) 1 will be nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association;
- (f) 1 will be engaged in research activities involving animals nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982*.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Presiding Member

Dr Ian Carmichael Nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Livestock Act 1997*

Members

Mr Andrew Olgilvie Nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation
Mr Warren Starick Nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation
Ms Shatha Hamade Nominated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals SA (Inc)
Mr Grant Robb Nominated as a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, is suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations
Dr Sue Bigwood Nominated as a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, is suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations
Dr Susan Hazel Nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr Denise Noonan Nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982*

Section 11 of the Act further requires that there be a Secretary to the Committee who holds office under the *Public Sector Act 2009*. Currently, the Manager, Animal Welfare Unit, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) holds this office.

Committee Support

Dr Deborah Kelly Secretary to the Committee
Manager, Animal Welfare Unit, DEWNR
Ms Jodi Cameron Administrative Support
Project Officer, Animal Welfare Unit, DEWNR

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Reason for non attendance
Dr Ian Carmichael	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	
Mr Andrew Olgilvie	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	Absent
Mr Warren Starick	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	
Ms Shatha Hamade	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	
Mr Grant Robb	31 October 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 June 2012	Annual Leave, Illness
Dr Sue Bigwood	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	
Dr Susan Hazel	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	
Dr Denise Noonan	31 October 2011, 5 December 2011, 21 February 2012, 18 April 2012, 18 June 2012	

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The three year term of the committee started 15 September 2011.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Committee has no staff of its own. Administrative support is provided from existing DEWNR resources. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

Members of the Committee are paid in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, namely:

Presiding Member: Nil. The Presiding Member in the reporting period was employed under the *Public Sector Act 2009* and is not eligible for remuneration.

Members: \$2,400 per annum.

Pursuant to Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016: *Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-time Boards and Committees*, government employees do not receive remuneration for their services to the Committee.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

There have been no instances of occupational health, safety and welfare (OHS&W) issues arising within the Committee. Induction is carried out for new members and appropriate precautions are taken if field trips are undertaken. As a user of DEWNR facilities and equipment, the Committee is aware of and abides by DEWNR OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter and evaluation of OHS&W programs and their effectiveness is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Committee is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. As such, reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

The costs associated with the administration of the Committee are met from within existing DEWNR resources. Members are paid an annual fee in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during the reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee during the financial year.

CONSULTANTS

The Committee did not engage any consultants during the 2011-12 financial year. The Committee utilises the advice of industry and Government authorities on various issues.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Committee has travelled overseas on the business of the Committee during the reporting period.

DISABILITY ACTION PLANS

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEWNR. The members of the Committee are aware of and abide by their obligations under the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *State Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2011-12 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Committee participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au to view the FOI Statement.

WHISTELBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Committee to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during 2011-12.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORT

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK

The members of the Committee are aware of, and abide by, their obligations in relation to minimisation of waste, reduction in energy consumption and conservation of water. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2011-12.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2011-12.